

I Claim:

1. A scheduling system for an MFP to provided scheduled readiness of the MFP,  
comprising:

an MFP having an EMail address associated therewith;

5 an EMail system for generating user EMAILS and transmitting the generated  
EMAILS;

a readiness specification which is contained in a user-generated EMail and which  
sets parameters controlling the readiness of the MFP;

an acknowledgment mechanism in the MFP for generating a reply EMail,

10 indicating that the readiness specification has been received and entered; and

an error message generator in the MFP for generating a reply EMail indicating that  
the readiness specification has not been entered.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the EMail system includes Microsoft Outlook™.

15 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said readiness specification includes a starting  
command.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said starting command has the form: mm/dd/yyyy  
20 hh:mm [am|pm] [repeat[daily|weekly|monthly|yearly]], which sets parameters for controlling the  
readiness of the MFP.

5. A scheduling system for an MFP to provided scheduled readiness of the MFP,  
comprising:

an MFP having an EMail address associated therewith;

an EMail system for generating user EMAILS and transmitting the generated

5 EMAILS;

a readiness specification which is contained in a user-generated EMail and which  
sets parameters controlling the readiness of the MFP;

an acknowledgment mechanism in the MFP for generating a reply EMail,  
indicating that the readiness specification has been received and entered; and

10 an error message generator in the MFP for generating a reply EMail indicating that  
the readiness specification has not been entered.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said readiness specification includes a starting  
command having the form: mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm [am|pm] [repeat[daily|weekly|monthly|yearly]],

15 which sets parameters for controlling the readiness of the MFP.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the EMail system includes Microsoft Outlook™.

8. A scheduling system for an MFP to provided scheduled readiness of the MFP, comprising:

an MFP having an EMail address associated therewith;

an EMail system for generating user EMAILS and transmitting the generated

5 EMAILS;

a readiness specification which is contained in a user-generated EMail and which sets parameters controlling the readiness of the MFP, including a starting command having the form: mm/dd/yyyy hh:mm [am|pm] [repeat[daily|weekly|monthly|yearly]];

an acknowledgment mechanism in the MFP for generating a reply EMail,

10 indicating that the readiness specification has been received and entered; and

an error message generator in the MFP for generating a reply EMail indicating that the readiness specification has not been entered.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the EMail system includes Microsoft Outlook™ .